

Appn No. 09/835,711
Amdt. Dated August 09, 2004
Response to Office action of July 14, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Official Action dated July 14, 2004.

Claim Objections

Claim 159 has been amended to address the omission identified by the Examiner.

Claim – 35 USC §103

The Applicant contests the Examiner's assertion that the present invention is obvious in light of US 5,057,855 to Damouth in view of US 5,079,567 to Beaman et al.

An obviousness rejection must satisfy three fundamental criteria (see MPEP §706.02(j)):

- i) there must be a suggestion or motivation to modify a citation, or combine citations;
- ii) the ordinary worker must have a reasonable expectation of success; and,
- iii) the citation(s) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

The cited references fail to teach or suggest "said interconnect means is configured such that it need only be connected to said printhead along one edge thereof". The Examiner argues that this feature is shown in Figure 2, reference 36, column 3, lines 37-40, and column 5, lines 15-20 of Beaman. However, Beaman is silent as to this feature and in fact shows that the interconnect means extends from both edges of the printhead to the respective busbars on opposite sides of the printhead.

Figure 2 of Beaman is a cross section along A-A shown in Figure 1. The cross section is transverse to the longitudinal extent of the printhead. The Examiner has equated the PCB 36 with the interconnect of claim 155. However, the cited arrangement actually uses two PCB's shown as 36a and 36b in Figure 1. 36a extend from the printhead to the power busbar and 36b extends from the opposite edge of the printhead to the ground busbar. This is precisely the situation that the present invention successfully avoids by connecting both busbars to the printhead along one edge only. By aligning and adhering the TAB film to one edge of the printhead only, assembling the entire printhead assembly is greatly simplified.

None of the cited references recognize that assembly can be simplified in this way, or suggest the solution provided by the present invention. Therefore, claim 155 is novel and inventive in light of the cited art. Furthermore, claims 156 to 161 and 163 to 170 are likewise novel and inventive in light of their direct or indirect dependence from claim 155.

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The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims rejection has been successfully traversed. Accordingly favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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